

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 23 and added new claims 25-30. Thus, claims 1, 3-22 and 24-30 are now pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

The Examiner indicates that the January 13, 2005 Office Action is made final because the August 23, 2004 Amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection in the Office Action. However, independent claim 20 was not amended in the August 23, 2004 Amendment and is rejected based on new grounds.¹ **Accordingly, the finality of the January 13 Office Action is improper and Applicant requests that it be withdrawn.**

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 10 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to hold in abeyance the rewriting of these claims until the Examiner has had the opportunity to reconsider the rejected parent claims in light of the arguments presented below in support of the Applicant's traverse of the rejection.

Claims 1-9, 11-18 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (referred to as "AAPA" by the Examiner) in view of the "AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification" (1394 Trade Association, Version

¹ As set forth in MPEP 706.07(a), "second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall final, except where the examiner introduces a new grounds of rejection that is neither necessitated by applicant's amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed during the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p)."

3.0, April 15, 1998). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been rendered obvious in view of the combined references.

The Examiner asserts that Applicant's Admitted Prior Art discloses all of the features of the claims except for "the target devices responding to a communication command informing or notifying a control device about a change that occurs in a plug in the connection status parameter of the devices connected within." However, the Examiner cites the AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification for allegedly disclosing "informing or notifying a control device [of] a change that happens in the connection status parameter of the AV devices ... [,] establishing or breaking connections if the online status indication bit is on or off ... [and] the command structure comprising an operand designating bit fields of the iPCR and oPCR of the AV units". Further, the Examiner asserts that "it would have been obvious to ... take the teachings of the [AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification] related to AV/C Digital Interface Command and have modified the AAPA in order to facilitate the connection management of the AV devices connected with digital interface (IEEE-1394-1395) by allowing changes for establishing and deleting connections in the input and output plugs according to the status changes in the plug registers."

The AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification (section 9) discloses unit commands which can be utilized to request the status of a plug control register of an AV device. For example, the CHANNEL USAGE command can be used to find out which AV unit is using a particular channel (where using a channel means that one of the AV unit's oPCRs indicates that there exists a connection which uses the particular channel) and the CHANNEL

USAGE status response which indicates whether the AV unit is using the particular channel (see section 9.1 on pages 36 and 37).

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 11 to recite that:

the connection management command specifies at least one connection status parameter bit field of an output plug control register of the first device or an input plug control register of the second device and indicates that the control device desires to be notified of a future change of the connection status parameter bit field specified in the connection management command.

Similarly, independent claim 20 has been amended to recite that the command structure comprises:

an operand for designating at least one connection status parameter bit field of the output plug control register or the input plug control register, wherein command structure indicates that a control device desires to be notified of a future change of the at least one connection status parameter bit field specified in the connection management command.

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and the AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a connection management command which specifies at least one connection status parameter of an output plug control register or an input plug control register and indicates that the control device desires to be notified of a future change of the at least one connection status parameter specified in the connection management command, as claimed. That is, according to the AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification, the CHANNEL USAGE status response notifies the control device of a current connection status with regard to a particular channel rather than a future change of the connection status with regard to the particular channel. Further, the "new

control command” of the prior art algorithm of Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art simply notifies the control device that one of the connected devices does not desire to receive or transmit data any longer and does not transmit a notify response from the sink or source device to the control device when a change occurs in the bit field of the iPCR or the oPCR.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11 and 20, as well as dependent claims 3-10, 12-19, 21, 22 and 24, should be allowable because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the feature of the claims. By this Amendment, Applicant has added new dependent claims 25-30 to further define the claimed invention.² Applicant respectfully submits that these claims should be allowable based on their dependencies on independent claims 1, 11 and 20. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not teach or suggest that “the connection status parameter bit field is one of an on-line bit field, a broadcast connection counter bit field, a point-to-point connection counter bit field, a channel number bit field, a data rate bit field, an overhead ID bit field and a payload bit field of the output plug control register of the first device”, as recited in claims 25, 27 and 29. Similarly, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not teach or suggest that “the connection status parameter bit field is one of an on-line bit field, a broadcast connection counter bit field, a point-to-point connection counter bit field and a channel number bit field of the input plug control register of the second device”, as recited in claims 26, 28 and 30.

² Support the subject matter of claims 25-30 can be found, for example, at page 6, lines 6-19, of the present application.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,424

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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